

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 1975 ECUADOREAN SHRIMP EXPORTS

REF: 75 GUAYAQUIL 1819

1. FINAL STATISTICS FOR 1975 OBTAINED FROM REGULAR INDUSTRY SOURCES, SHOW THAT ECUADOR ENJOYED A BANNER YEAR FOR EXPORTS OF SHRIMP. IN 1975 ECUADOREAN FIRMS EXPORTED 8,341,930 LBS. OF SHRIMP AS COMPARED TO 5,855,516 LBS. IN 1974. THIS REPRESENTS A 42 PERCENT INCREASE AND A VERY GOOD YEAR FINANCIALLY FOR THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE FOLLOWING WHAT WAS REGARDED AS A POOR YEAR IN 1974. THE 1975 FIGURE ALSO EXCEEDS THE 8.2 MILLION LBS. EXPORTED IN 1973, BUT FALLS SHORT OF THE 9 MILLION LBS. RECORD OF 1969. WERE IT NOT FOR THE NEW GOE REQUIREMENT THAT 20 PERCENT OF THE SHRIMP HARVEST MUST BE MARKETING LOCALLY, 1975 WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN A RECORD YEAR FOR EXPORTS.

2. A TOTAL OF 18 FIRMS EXPORTED DURING 1975, AS COMPARED TO 23 IN 1974. OF THE TOTAL FOR 1975, 81 PERCENT WAS EXPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING SEVEN FIRMS:

IPESA	2,013,085 LBS
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ENACA	1,206,000
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EMPACADORA SHAYNE	1,002,563
COPESA	949,983
FRIGORO	524,682
ESCA	524,581
FRIMAR	510,294
TOTAL	6,731,188 LBS.

3. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 90-95 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL OF 1975 WAS EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE PROSPECTS FOR 1976, THERE HAS BEEN A HEAVY RAINFALL DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF THE CURRENT RAINY SEASON IN JANUARY. IF THIS CONTINUES THROUGH THE SEASON EXPECTED TO END SOMETIME IN APRIL, 1976 SHOULD BE ANOTHER GOOD YEAR. USUALLY A VERY GOOD SHRIMP HARVEST FOLLOWS A HEAVY RAINY SEASON. IN ANY CASE, A CLEARER PICTURE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY WHEN THE EXTENT OF THIS YEAR'S HARVEST WILL BE BETTER KNOWN.
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